



Montana Crime Prevention Association

EXHIBIT 3

DATE 3/4/2011

SB 151

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My name is Robert Putzke and I'm here in support of SB151. I am the police chief at Montana State University and the president of the Montana Crime Prevention Association. I would like to tell you a little about our organization and why I think you should enact Senate Bill 151.

The Montana Crime Prevention Association is a non-profit group organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. It is a professional organization encompassing community representation at all levels dedicated to providing collaborative partnerships and education that addresses, encourages, and supports crime prevention efforts across the tribal nations and the State of Montana. We exist to promote comprehensive awareness about the role that effective crime prevention plays in improving the quality of life for all Montanans. MCPA includes community and Tribal representatives from professional organizations across the State. These representatives focus on partnering with local communities to address their crime problems by providing information, training, and expertise.

In only its first year of existence, MCPA has established a membership based organization with nearly 60 individual and corporate members, obtained three grants totaling over \$30,000, hired an executive director, developed a web site that shares cutting edge crime prevention solutions, issued its first quarterly newsletter addressing crime problems in Montana, co-sponsored Montana's 4th annual Crime Prevention Conference, and conducted training for over 200 law enforcement and community leaders. All of this has been accomplished on a shoe-string budget with a largely volunteer staff; however, without funding, we cannot sustain our efforts. Indeed, after outstanding bills, our current bank account balance is less than \$1000.

MCPA feels that crime prevention is best practiced at the local level and best paid for by those that create the problem, criminals. MCPA supports SB 151 because it funds crime prevention through criminal convictions not through taxpayer's wallets, because it adds not a single FTE to State Government, and because it can create a sustainable crime prevention effort that will continue year-after-year to address changing crime problems that threaten our local communities.

If SB 151 passes, and if the Montana Crime Prevention Association is the recipient of these funds it plans to do the following: grow the organization to include all those interested in preventing crime in their communities, provide expertise and training to those who ask for it, and to continue to provide cutting edge crime prevention training to law enforcement and communities across the State. Specifically, we plan to tackle what we consider the 5 biggest crime issues facing Montana today, DUI, Child Bullying and Safety, prescription drug and substance abuse problems, identity theft, and crime in our neighborhoods.

To be recognized as the driving force in promoting and advancing sustainable crime prevention programs and in enhancing public safety through progressive resources and training tailored to address local needs throughout the Tribal Nations and the State of Montana.

Lastly, I would like to address some concerns that came up when this bill was presented in the Senate Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago. Some people have asked for clarification about the relationship between the MCPA and the Montana Board of Crime Control. The Montana Crime Prevention Association was formed by the Board of Crime Control to address problems that could be solved through Crime Prevention efforts. The Board of Crime Control deals with higher level issues of funding and grant administration, thus enabling smaller groups such as MCPA to do grass roots level training and instruction. Indeed, over 70% of MCPA's funding has come from grants issued through the Board of Crime Control. With upcoming shortages in funding expected at the federal level, especially in Byrne Grants and JAG funds, and cuts expected to be enacted through this legislature, funding for MCPA through the Board of Crime Control from SB151 in the form of criminal penalties are increasingly important. MCPA doesn't duplicate services; it provides a service that no one else is currently providing.

Some Montana magistrates have come out in opposition to SB151 saying that they are against new fees or taxes. SB 151 is not a fee or a tax. It represents an additional penalty that only convicted criminals will have to pay. SB151 simply puts this penalty up front as a surcharge ensuring that the people most impacted by crime will benefit first. This surcharge represents a only a small charge for each conviction, five dollars, but collectively an enormous potential gain to help prevent citizens from being victimized again. Thank you for your help with our fight against crime, I'll be glad to answer question if you have any.